

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the new claims presented below. For the convenience of the Examiner, an unmarked version of all pending claims is provided.

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1           1.     A method of encoding or encrypting data, comprising:  
2                 providing an assembly of information-bearing sounds (ISA);  
3                 removing one or more selected segments of the assembly, to produce a  
4                         specified data file;  
5                 providing an encoding/encryption key and encoding or encrypting the  
6                         specified data file; and  
7                 communicating the encoded or encrypted specified data file in a first selected  
8                         communication channel and communicating the removed segments in  
9                         a second selected communication channel.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a data supplement  
2                 that indicates at least one of: location of at least one of said removed segments within  
3                 said ISA; size of at least one of said removed segments within said ISA; number of  
4                 segments removed; separation distance between two consecutive removed segments  
5                 within said ISA; and a selected portion of said encoding/encryption key; and  
6                 communicating said data supplement in said second selected communication  
7                         channel.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said  
2     encoding/encryption key with at least one key parameter that uses information from at  
3     least one of said removed segments.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting said first and second  
2     communication channels to be the same channel.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said second channel  
2     as a secure communication channel.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, further comprising concatenating said removed  
2     segments and said data supplement as a concatenated data file.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, further comprising encrypting said specified data  
2     file using cipher block chaining of at least one block of said concatenated data file and at  
3     least one encrypted block from said specified data file.

1           8.     The method of claim 7, further comprising providing said at least one  
2     encryption parameter for said encoding/encryption key by providing a block of said  
3     concatenated data file as an initial block for said at least one encrypted block of said  
4     data.

1           9.     The method of claim 1, further comprising removing at least first and  
2     second segments from said data file, where the first segment and the second segment  
3     have equal length.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, further comprising removing at least first and  
2     second segments from said data file, where the first segment and the second segment  
3     have different lengths.

1           11.    The method of claim 1, further comprising combining said removed  
2     segments with said specified data file to form a combined data file and reproducing the  
3     combined data file as an assembly of sounds.

1           12.    A method of decoding or decrypting data, comprising:

2           providing an encoded or encrypted first data file;

3           providing a second data file and a data supplement that indicates at least one

4           of: an assigned location of at least one designated segment of the  
5           second data file within a non-coded and non-encrypted version of the

6           first data file; size of at least one designated segment of the second

7           data file within the non-coded and non-encrypted first data file;

8           number of selected segments designated; separation distance of at

9           least two consecutive designated segments of the second data file

10          within the non-coded and non-encrypted first data file; and a selected

11 portion of an encoding/encryption key used to encoded or encrypt the  
12 first data file; and  
13 using the data supplement to decode or decrypt the encoded or encrypted first  
14 data file and to position at least a first sequence and a second  
15 sequence, drawn from the second data file, within the first data file.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising: providing said encoded or  
2 encrypted first data file on a first communication channel and providing said  
3 concatenation of said second data file and said data supplement on a second  
4 communication channel.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising selecting said first and  
2 second communication channels to be the same channel.

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1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing said second  
2 channel as a secure communication channel.

1 16. The method of claim 19, further comprising determining at least one  
2 parameter of said encoding/encryption key using information in said second data file.

1 17. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing said encoded or  
2 encrypted first data file using cipher block chaining of at least one block of said

3 concatenation of said second data file and said data supplement and at least one encoded  
4 or encrypted block from said first data file.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising providing at least one  
2 encoding/encryption key parameter for said encoding/encryption key by providing at  
3 least one of said first sequence and said second sequence as an initial block for said at  
4 least one encoded/encrypted block of said data.

1 19. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing said second data  
2 file and said data supplement as a concatenated data file.

1 20. The method of claim 12, further comprising combining said removed  
2 segments with said specified data file to form a combined data file and reproducing the  
3 combined data file as an assembly of sounds.

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2 21. A method of communicating data, the method comprising:  
3 providing an assembly of information-bearing sounds as a digital file of data;  
4 removing one or more selected segments from the data file, to produce a  
5 specified data file having at least a first block and a second block;  
6 providing an encoding/encryption key having at least a first key portion and a  
7 second key portion;  
8 providing a data supplement that indicates at least one of: location of at least  
one of the removed segments within the data file; size of at least one

9 of the removed segments within the data file; number of segments  
10 removed; separation distance between two consecutive removed  
11 segments within the data file; and at least a portion of the  
12 encoding/encryption key;  
13 encoding or encrypting the first block and the second block of the specified  
14 data file, using the first portion and the second portion, respectively,  
15 of the encoding/encryption key; and  
16 communicating the encoded or encrypted specified data file in a first selected  
17 communication channel and communicating the removed segments  
18 and the data supplement in a second selected communication channel.

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1 22. (New) A method for delivering a digital sound file, the method  
2 comprising:  
3 dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files;  
4 encrypting at least a portion of the first data file using an encryption key;  
5 communicating the encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;  
6 and  
7 communicating the second data file in a second selected communication  
8 channel.

1           23.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the digital sound file comprises a  
2   plurality of segments, and the dividing the digital sound file into first and second data  
3   files comprises:

4           removing a portion of the plurality of segments from the digital sound file;  
5           storing the removed segments in the first data file; and  
6           storing the un-removed segments in the second data file.

1           24.   (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the second data file includes a  
2   data supplement that indicates at least one of:

3           location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,  
4           size of the removed segments,  
5           number of removed segments,  
6           separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the  
7           digital sound file, and  
8           a portion of the encryption key.

1           25.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the encryption key includes a  
2   key parameter that uses information from at least one of the removed segments.

1           26.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second  
2   communication channels are different channels.

1           27.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the second channel comprises a  
2   secure communication channel.

1           28.   (New) The method of claim 22, wherein one of the first and second data  
2   files is substantially larger than the other.

1           29.   (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:  
2           decrypting the encrypted first data file; and  
3           combining the first and second data files to reform the digital sound file.

1           30.   (New) A method for creating a digital sound file, comprising:  
2           receiving an encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;  
3           receiving a second data file in a second selected communication channel;  
4           decrypting the encrypted first data file; and  
5           combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file.

1           31.   (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the second data file includes a  
2   data supplement that indicates at least one of:  
3           location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,  
4           size of the removed segments,  
5           number of removed segments,



6 separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the  
7 digital sound file, and  
8 a portion of an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted first data file.

1 32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second data files  
2 each include one or more segments, and combining the first and second data files to  
3 form the digital sound file comprises:  
4 using the data supplement to position the segments from the first and second  
5 data files into the digital sound file.

1 33. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the second channel comprises a  
2 <sup>cont</sup> secure communication channel.

1 34. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the first and second data  
2 files is substantially larger than the other.

1 35. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein decrypting the encrypted first  
2 data file includes using a key, at least one parameter of the key determined from  
3 information in the second data file.

1           36.   (New) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable  
2   medium containing computer program code for delivering a digital sound file, the  
3   computer program code comprising instructions for:  
4           dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files;  
5           encrypting at least a portion of the first data file using an encryption key;  
6           communicating the encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;  
7                   and  
8           communicating the second data file in a second selected communication  
9           channel.

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1           37.   (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the digital  
2   sound file comprises a plurality of segments, and the dividing the digital sound file into  
3   first and second data files comprises:  
4           removing a portion of the plurality of segments from the digital sound file;  
5           storing the removed segments in the first data file; and  
6           storing the un-removed segments in the second data file.

1           38.   (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second  
2   data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:  
3           location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,  
4           size of the removed segments,  
5           number of removed segments,

6 separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the  
7 digital sound file, and  
8 a portion of the encryption key.

1 39. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the  
2 encryption key includes a key parameter that uses information from at least one of the  
3 removed segments.

1 40. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the first and  
2 second communication channels are different channels.

1 41. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the second  
2 channel comprises a secure communication channel.

1 42. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein one of the  
2 first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

1 43. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:  
2 decrypting the encrypted first data file; and  
3 combining the first and second data files to reform the digital sound file.

1           44.   (New) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable  
2   medium containing computer program code for creating a digital sound file, the  
3   computer program code comprising instructions for:

4           receiving an encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;  
5           receiving a second data file in a second selected communication channel;  
6           decrypting the encrypted first data file; and  
7           combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file.

1           45.   (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the second  
2   data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:

3           location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,  
4           size of the removed segments,  
5           number of removed segments,  
6           separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the  
7           digital sound file, and  
8           a portion of an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted first data file.

1           46.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the first and  
2   second data files each include one or more segments, and combining the first and second  
3   data files to form the digital sound file comprises:

4           using the data supplement to position the segments from the first and second  
5           data files into the digital sound file.

1 47. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the second  
2 channel comprises a secure communication channel.

48. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein one of the  
first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

1 49. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein decrypting  
2 the encrypted first data file includes using a key, at least one parameter of the key  
3 determined from information in the second data file.

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